



San Diego City Attorney **CASEY GWINN**

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 4, 2001

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SAN DIEGO TEEN COURT NOW IN SESSION

Two city juvenile diversion programs merge to reduce crime

WHAT: San Diego Teen Court will convene for the first time. It is the merger of two existing youth programs: City of San Diego's Peer Court and Youth Court. Teen Court is a diversion program for first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders. High School students sentence the juvenile offender and carry out the roles of jury, prosecutor, defense attorney, court clerk and bailiff. The goal is to keep juveniles from re-offending and preventing juvenile crime. San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn and San Diego City Councilman Brian Maienschein will serve as Judges and are two of the key signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding. Other partners include: San Diego Police Department, San Diego City Schools, Office of the Public Defender, SD Juvenile Court, Office of the Mayor, SD Probation, SD County Bar Association and San Diego's Law Schools.

WHEN: **Friday, October 5, 10 a.m. News Conference & 10:15 a.m. Teen Court in Session**

WHERE: San Diego City Council Chambers, 202 C Street, 12th Floor

NEWS MEDIA: You will not be permitted to photograph the juvenile offenders, or identify them.

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